

25X1A2g

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~~DATA INTERVIEW USE ONLY~~

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Distribution for BACKGROUND USE ONLY to: SDO 2 2, D/ONE, D/OKR 3

GROUP 1
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declassification

→ Less than 1%

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IN

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

QUITE CONCERNED OVER THE CURRENT SITUATION IN CHINA WHICH
COULD RESULT IN DIMINISHED RICE EXPORTS AND BECOME A BLOW
TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ECONOMY, MORE SERIOUS THAN THE AMERICAN
BOMBING. [REDACTED] BELIEVE THAT UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES

NEGOTIATIONS ARE IMPOSSIBLE AND ARE FURTHER CONVINCED THAT
ULTIMATELY THE UNITED STATES MUST BARGAIN WITH CHINA, WHICH

[REDACTED] ALSO VIEW AS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL MAO TSE TUNG DIES
OR IS REMOVED FROM POWER).

2. [REDACTED] HANOI BELIEVE THAT THE NORTH
VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IS MUCH MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE CURRENT
SITUATION IN COMMUNIST CHINA THAN THE AMERICAN BOMBINGS.
THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THIS CONCERN IS THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE
DEPEND HEAVILY ON CHINA FOR THEIR RICE SUPPLY, HALF OF WHICH
COMES FROM CHINA. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FEAR THAT A CONTINUA-
TION OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN CHINA MAY RESULT IN
DISRUPTION OF NORMAL SUPPLY LINES AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY WITH
A CONSEQUENT DIMINISHING OF RICE EXPORTS WHICH COULD BE A
SERIOUS, IF NOT CRIPPLING, BLOW TO NORTH VIETNAM. [REDACTED]
OFFICIALS IN HANOI HAVE FOUND THAT THE AMERICAN BOMBINGS
HAVE CAUSED UNEXPECTEDLY HEAVY DAMAGE ALTHOUGH THIS HAS NOT

IN -

TDCS

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

MATERIALLY DAMAGED THE WAR EFFORT.

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3. [REDACTED] OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, IF LEFT TO THEIR OWN DECISION, MIGHT BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY WON MANY MATERIAL CONCESSIONS FROM THE FRENCH AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE IN 1954. HOWEVER, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF DEPENDENCE ON CHINA FOR ITS FOOD SUPPLY, THERE IS NO CHANCE THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WILL NEGOTIATE WITH THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT CHINESE CONCURRENCE. THEREFORE,

Absolutely false.

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SINCE [REDACTED] BELIEVE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE IMPOSSIBLE, GIVEN CURRENT CHINESE INTRANSIGENCE, [REDACTED] WILL DO NOTHING TO ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATIONS. [REDACTED] ARE ALSO CONVINCED THAT TO NEGOTIATE WITH NORTH VIETNAM THE UNITED STATES MUST ULTIMATELY BARGAIN WITH CHINA, BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A COMMON GROUND FOR SUCH BARGAINING UNTIL MAO TSE TUNG DIES OR IS REMOVED FROM POWER.

4. (SOURCE COMMENT. [REDACTED]

SAID THAT THE ABOVE REPRESENTS THE OFFICIAL [REDACTED] VIEWPOINT ON THE VIETNAMESE SITUATION.)

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5. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMACV HAI CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT (ALSO SENT [REDACTED])

~~REPORT CLASS SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM CONTROLLED DISSEM OF 1~~